

THE  
A P O L O G Y,  
OR  
V I N D I C A T I O N  
O F

*K*  
Sir *Cleave More*, Bart.

U P O N

The suing forth a Commission of Lunacy against  
*Joseph Edmonds*, Esquire,

S E T T I N G F O R T H

The Motives and Reasons for so doing, with  
a short Account of the several Acts of L U  
N A C Y, proved upon Mr. *Edmonds*.

With some Remarks

Upon the Nature of Commissions of Lunacy,  
Issuing out of the High Court of Chancery  
and of the Common Law Writ.

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*De Lunatico Inquirendo.*

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Of use in the Present Age, especially to all  
such who not being Lunatics, may be nearly  
Related to them.

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*Nisi Anticyras duplicatō meruisset. —*

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THE  
APOLLO  
OF  
MEDICINE



THE  
 APOLOGY  
 OR  
 VINDICATION  
 OF  
 Sir Cleave More, Bart. &c.

**T**O trouble the World with the Histories of private Families, or Apologies of particular Persons in their own Affairs, is an assuming Vanity in the Author, a useless Consumption of the *Printers* Paper, and the Readers Time.

But since so many Persons, have pleased Officially to concern themselves in my particular *Cause*, and in the very Courts of Justice to appear in awful Numbers ( as they fancied ) against me, and afterwards to shew themselves in Scurrilous *Invectives* and Pamphlets. My Cause became no longer a private Cause, and my Defence ought to be as Publick as the Provocation.

It is a Hardship that a Gentleman in his necessary



ry Vindication, must submit not to disown some Facts, which are of such a Nature, that (of all things) a Gentleman least cares to own : But the lesser Evil, hath always something of Good, and must of the two be followed ; and therefore to do Right to my self, and Justice to my Posterity, and preserve to my only Son, the Estates to which he is Born, and to retrieve them from the Artificers, Violences and Plunders, of those Infamous Persons who have a long time inclosed the Person of Mr. *Edmonds*. I have taken this Method to give the World a true State of His and My Case, in this my Apology and let them know the *Grounds* and Reasons for my Prosecution, of the late Commission of *Lunacy* against Him.

But what finally determined me to this Method was, that there was no Other, to let the World into the History of the late Proceedings in that Commission : (for Commissions of this kind being of a private Nature, and thought Discretionary in the Lord Chancellor and the Proceedings not Judicial but Summary ; there was no Opportunity by Writs of Error or Appeal to any other Judicature, to Enquire into the Justice, or Reasonableness of any of those Proceedings.)

It is well known that my Family, Title and Estate, in the County of *Lancashire* are antient ; and though my Estate had the Fate ( of many better to be greatly reduced, yet in the Year, One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety One, it was not less worth than Thirty Thousand Pounds above Incumbrances, as it still is, in spite of all Calumny : Surely then it could be no Insolence



in me, to pretend Courtship to the Daughter of a private Gentleman of *Hertfordshire*.

Whatever my Enemies now give out, Mr. *Edmonds* never thought it so, my Addresses to his Daughter were received by him, with all Complacency and Encouragement: But finding it more suitable to the Temper of Mr. *Edmonds*, that his Daughter should have her Portion in Expectancy than in Possession; his Daughter and I, after a long Courtship agreed the Matter among ourselves, and I married her, without a Farthing, relying on the Title of an only Child, and Heir to an aged Father, which in due Time might turn to a much better Account than a few Thousand Pounds of ready Money.

Not doubting to gain his Approbation, of what we had done, by the honourable Usage I was determined to give her, and have ever since given Her, I having at my own Charge maintained Her many Years, with Coaches, Equipages, &c. and all Things suitable to our Quality.

Accordingly it succeeded, and soon after the Marriage, Mr. *Edmonds* not only received us both with a Fatherly Tendernefs, I may say Respect, but after a generous Reception of us at his own House, at *Cumberlow-Green*, he was pleased to accompany his Daughter to my House, in *Lancashire*, where he was entertained with all dutiful Respect from me, and with the Complements of many Thousands of the neighbouring Country, and after a Stay of several Months, returned Home; with Expressions of a thorough Satisfaction at all that had passed.

From that Time frequent and reciprocal Visits continued between Us for many Years, with repeated Demonstrations of his Friendship for me, as his Son in Law, and many publick Declarations of the great Kindnesses he intended to do for me, (*viz.*) To pay off the Mortgage on my Estate, and settle Us at *Bank-Hall*, where he was so well pleased, that he was resolved to live with Us himself, in Order to which he sent his own Goods to my House.

I had not been thus particular, but to reproach the Malice of my Enemies, who have publicly asserted that Mr. *Edmonds* had never been reconciled to me, since my Marriage of his Daughter, and therefore having no Hopes of receiving any Thing from him even after his Death, I had taken this Method, to get his Estate in his Life-Time.

*But now to what concerns the Commission.*

Mr. *Edmonds* having above Twelve Years since, been surprized with an Apoplectick Fit, he became thereby for a considerable Time deprived of the Use of his Senses and Memory, and though after several Months, He in some Measure recovered them, yet he hath been ever since Subject to frequent Relapses, and great Disorder of Mind with Loss of Memory and Understanding, as hath been apparent in his almost daily Deportment and Behaviour, some Days appearing as stupid, moped and speechless, at other Times exposing himself by Childish, antick and ridiculous Passages, unbecoming of, or impracticable by any Man of the least Thought or Presence of Mind, sometimes expressing his Dispair  
of

of having wherewith to Live, and Exclaiming that he should Perish for Want; yet at other Times, would be most vainly and disorderly profuse of great Sums of Money: And frequently transporting himself into Rage and Frenetic Passions, with execrable Oaths, Imprecations and Curses, without the least visible Occasion or Provocation, and often Threatning and Attempting to make himself away: Some few of many, of which *Delirious* and *Lunatick* Passages, are herein after set forth.

Of this Diafterous Condition of Mr. *Edmonds*, several of his Wife's Relations of mean Circumstances and Indifferent Characters, viz. Mrs. *Elizabeth Greenbill*, and several others of the same Family, have for many Years made great Advantage, by Living upon him in his House, under pretence of the care of his Person, and Managing the Rents and Revenues of a plentiful Estate, and Pillageing his Estate by committing extravagant Wast, in Cutting and Selling great Quantities of Timber without his notice, and disposing great Sums of Money as themselves pleased; and not only so, but ( what is of the utmost Consequence in private Families) have found means to make him Execute conveyances of considerable Parts, (if not of all) his real Estate unto themselves or their Confidants; and likewise to Sign and Publish what Writings they thought fit, as his last Will and Testament, when he was in no Capacity of Understanding so to do, and for the better accomplishing those, their base Designs, they inclosed him to themselves, by refusing me and all other Persons, (not of their own Confederacy) to have any Access to his Person, or any Communi-



cation by Letters with him, thereby to prevent any Discovery of his Incompetency: And have likewise been shamefully Instrumental, in causing and Improving the Unhappy Misunderstandings with my Wife; and Irritating Mr. *Edmonds* on all occasions against me; with design to Divert the Succession of his Inheritance from his only Grandson.

Under this Melancholly Posture of my Family Affairs, I imparted the Truth of the above mentioned Facts, to several Persons of great Quality, whom I had the Honour to be known to, I also did the like to several Gentlemen of the Law, eminent in their Professions. I consulted also with several other near Relations of Mr. *Edmonds*, to whom the above mentioned Facts were well known, who all encouraged and advised me, to prevent future, and remedy past Mischiefs to my Family, from such Notorious Practices, to endeavour to obtain a Commission of *Lunacy*, thereby to preserve both the Person of Mr. *Edmonds*, and his Estate, from being a Prey to those who so long had the Custody and *Despotick Power* of Both, without any Commission at all.

Upon these Encouragements, and the natural Tendency to Self-Preservation, and above all, having the support of manifest Right and Law. *Charles Stafford Esq;* a very near Relation of Mr. *Edmonds*, did by Petition apply to the Learned late Lord Chancellour, wherein was set forth some of the Facts above mentioned, with particular and positive Affidavits making the same out, praying relief in those Cases usual.

His

His Lordship having heard the Petition, and the Affidavits Annexed, Read, and though fully satisfied of the Truth of the Facts, yet for further Confirmation of the same, and *ad informandam Conscientiam Curiae*, was pleased to Issue forth a Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the Fifteenth Day of *M A Y* last past, Directed to the Sherrieff of *Middlesex*, to inquire of the Sanity of the said Mr. *Edmonds*, and the Sherrieff having in Obedience to the said Commission, Summoned a Jury to enquire of *Matters* directed and in Issue before them, they having Examined upon Oath many Witnessses, who fully made out the Suggestions of the Petition, the Jury were so fully satisfied, That they refused (as Superfluous) to hear any other Witnessses, who were ready to make out many other Acts of *Lunacy* more than what had been given in Evidence, and thereupon, they gave their Verdict, that the said Mr. *Edmonds* was *Lunatick*, and so had been for the space of Fifteen Years past.

Upon Return of which Inquisition and Verdict, his Lordship had no longer any doubt of Mr. *Edmonds's Lunacy*, and was fully satisfied, that it was not fitting he should be Intrusted with the Management of his Estate, and that his Person ought to be put under Guardianship. And thereupon Recommended and Ordered Sir *Charles Cox* to take the Custody of his Person, and Committed the Custody and Care of his Estate to my self; his Son in Law, who in Right of my Wife and Son, am next Related to the same.

Nor could his Lordship ( with great Submissi-  
on

on to him ) in Justice do otherwise than treat Mr. *Edmonds* as a *Lunatick*, nor could he in Honour treat him more like a Gentleman, than by a Recommendation of the Care of his Person to a Gentleman, whose Character secured Mr. *Edmonds* a friendly and respectful Usage, and which he accordingly found, much beyond what other *Lunaticks* generally meet with from their Guardians.

Should the Commissions of *Lunacy*, which have passed the *Great Seal* within these Thirty Years last past, be inspected; I desire any Person to show whether one Half of them are to be justified, or supported with such Demonstrations of *Lunacy*, and such Multitude of Proofs fully making out the same.

It was therefore surprising to see so many Gentlemen (unconcern'd in Relation or Interest, save a Party Interest) and to whom all the Facts were very well known, so very diligent in their Attendance in Court, and afterwards so censorious on the Justice and Honour of his Lordship, in Issuing out the said Commission which (with Regard to the Common Right, the *Great Seal* owes the Subject) could not have been denied, without a much severer Censure from all the *Learned* in the *Law*, which ought to be regarded beyond the illiterate Censures of a few Country Gentlemen, nay, those Gentlemen have not been yet attoned, nor their Flagrancy allayed by the late Suspension, his Lordship (in a Sort of Complacency to their Neighbourly Expectation) hath thought fit for the Present to put to the

said



said Commission ) which I shall take Occasion to speak more of in it's proper Place.

It is not directly my Business on this Occasion to enquire into the Nature of those Commissions of *Lunacy*, which of late Years, and some Ages past the Court of Chancery hath thought fit to Issue, as if they were Acts *ex Gratia*, and not *ex Debito*, to the Subject, and as if Discretionary in the Crown, and not *de Jure*, to the next Relations.

I cannot but observe that those Commissions are all stiled Commissions in Nature of the Writ *de Lunatico Inquirendo*, which puts me into the Inquiry of the Nature of that Writ, before I go any further.

I am informed that by the Stat. 17. E. 2. C. 10. Which is but declarative of the common Law, the Crown is to have the Custody of the Lands of the *Lunatick*, ( and as to the Profits ; above Support of the *Lunatick*, and his Family, they are to be kept to the Use of them, or their Administrators ) and after Death, to render the Lands to the right Heirs, but the King is to have Nothing to his own Use, and Commissions, or Inquisitions of *Idiocy* and *Lunacy* have Retro-spects to avoid all former Acts, Deeds, &c. though made long before the finding the Office, or Verdict upon the Inquisition.

*Vide Beverly's Case,*  
Co. R. 4.

*Tourson's Case, Co.*  
R. 8, &c.

By this it is plain, that the next of Kin are intituled to all the Estates of a *Lunatick* ( above Support

Support immediately after his Death, and to all the Profits, from the Time of their *Lunacy* found; and the Writ *de Lunatico Inquirendo*, is a common Law Proceſſe, to Iſſue at the Proſecution of the next of Kin, in Order to have it aſcertained by Verdict, whether the Parry be *Lunatick* or not, and at what Time, and if the Parry be found *Lunatick*, the Right to the Eſtates become legally fixt in the next of Kin, as Heirs, or Adminiſtrators: 'Tis true, ſuch Inquiſitions or Verdicts, are as the *Lawyers* call it, *Traverſable*, that is to ſay, to be brought to a Trial by any other Jury, and ſo may be reverſed. but not otherwiſe. And the Commiſſions out of *Chancery*, are but in Aid of that Statute, and of that common Law Writ, and to Authorize from the Crown ſome proper Guardian, or Committee, to collect and diſpoſe the real and perſonal Eſtates of the *Lunatick* upon the Trusts aforeſaid; and ſuch Committee is but a Trustee for the next of Kin, according to the Statute. Therefore ſuppoſing Mr. *Edmonds* to be a *Lunatick*, as found by the Verdict, or may yet be found by any other Verdict, at the Proſecution of my Self, or any other Relation, and without the Aid of any Chancery Commiſſion, the Right to the Eſtates are become veſted in me, in my Wife and Son, and ſo were to ſome Purpoſes from the firſt Acts of *Lunacy*, wherby he became diſabled to alien, or diſpoſe his Eſtates, unleſs ſuch *Lunatick* ſhould recover his Senſes, without Intervening Relapſes, and that found by another Verdict.

If then the ſeveral Facts were ſuch, and the Law ſo, no Man can ſay but that it was highly incumbent on me, to ſupport the Right of my  
Wife,

Wife and Son, in the Method of a Commission of *Lunacy*. No Man can blame my Endeavours in Prosecuting, nor his Lordship Justice in Issuing the said Commission upon so full Proofs of *Lunacy*.

I come now to the Second Part of my Case, (*viz.*) What passed, and was done upon the late Hearing before his Lordship upon Inspection of the Person of Mr. *Edmonds* in Court.

It is not for me. to limit the Authority of the High-Court of Chancery in Matters of this Nature; (especially under such a learned and judicious Management) but with the utmost Deference to the Dignity of that Court; I humbly offer in support of the Right of the Subject, as well as my own Property; that where a Verdict of Twelve Men, hath found a Man a *Lunatick*: there's no Discretionary Power left in the Court, by Inspection to defeat that Verdict, upon which Verdict the Title of the next Relation doth accrue: This gives such an arbitrary Power to the *Chancellor*, that though a judicious and honourable Judge will do no Harm, yet a partial One may destroy all the Property of the Subject that is founded upon the Laws of *Lunacy*; and of what vast Consequence to the Subject that may be; the World may easily Judge.

If a Verdict be once had, and the Court not fully satisfied, it is in the Breast of the Court to direct, a more solemn Trial, by any other Jury, to have the *Lunacy* ascertained, but till such Verdict Impeached it seems inconsistent to overrule a Verdict by Inspection, tho' I dispute not  
but



but that the Court may suspend their own Commission, and determine the Power of the COMMITTEE, which is always *Durante bene placito*, and may leave the *Lunatick* to shift for himself, if the Court think him able and no Danger in it. But this can never remove, nor amend the Disability and Incompetency of Acting, which such a Verdict, or Inquisition hath fixt upon Record with a Retrospect of many Years.

In the Case in Hand, a Verdict finds the Person *Lunatick*: suppose the Judge upon his own Inspection declares him of sane Mind; this may be thought well, tho' the Consequences even in such Case, are Dismal as I will hereafter shew; yet, suppose upon such a Writ *de Lunatico Inquirendo* (at the Prosecution of any near Relation, which is a Writ of Course to be denyed to no Subject) any of you Gentlemen, of *Hertfordshire*, should have the GOOD luck to have a JUST Verdict that you are in your Senses, and a Keeper of the Seal should contrary to such Verdict by his definitive Sentence, (from which no Appeal lyes) Pronounce you *Lunatick* pray Gentlemen, must the Verdict or his Lordships Declaration prevail, (for tis plain one of them must) where then will be your Persons, and Estates real and Personal, I leave you to answer the Question at your Leisure?

I mention this to shew the dangerous Consequence of breaking through the Barrier of our *English* Liberty; I mean, the Security of Juries, in all Matters of Fact, which is the proper Subject of Juries.

And further, suppose, the Inspection of a Judge  
were

were to determine *Idiocy* without a Verdict, or against one, such natural Incompetency, gives the whole Estates of the Ideots (I mean the profits) to the Crown, a Nativitate of the Ideot *usque ad mortem*, Pray Gentlemen, consider also of the Consequences of this. But,

By the many instances of Inspection of *Lunaticks* by the Court, which I admit of great Use, to Influence the Court in its direction, as to the rigid or indulgent Governing the Person of the *Lunatick*) It is manifest, that such Inspection, and asking a few Common plain Questions, and giving some Intelligible answers to them, can never answer the End proposed, *viz.* Determine the Matter in Issue, *viz.* whether the Party be *Lunatick* or not, or hath not so been for some time past, and how long he hath so been; all which are of Consequence to set aside Deeds, Wills, &c. Executed during such Incompetency, and how can the Observation of a *Lunaticks* Deportment, for an Hour or Two, answer those Ends?

All *Lunaticks* are in *Natura rei*, supposed to be sometimes in their Senses, and frequently are longer than the time of Inspection in Court generally lasts: The Question is not, whether a Person be sometimes in his Senses, but whether he be not sometimes out of his Senses? In which Gloomy Hours, the *Lunatick* notwithstanding his *Lucid* Intervals may do his Person, Estate and Family, all the Mischiefs, &c. which it is the business of a Commission, and the Care of a Court to Obviate, *viz.* laying violent Hands on Himself, and Ruining his Estate, by committing Wast, Executing Deeds, &c. he understands not.

I must not deny but Mr. *Edmonds* had sometimes his Lucid Intervals ; it was in a very bright One, when he mounted at the Head of some Hundred Freeholders, with the Expence of several Hundred Pounds to influence a certain Election: What wiser Act could a refin'd *Politician* do, to make Friends against an evil Day ? But alas ! the Gentleman upon Reflection on what he had done, relapses into a profound Melancholly, and Despair of having Bread to eat, In which Fit he attempted to lay violent Hands on Himself. It's Pity Mr. *Bickerstaff*, before he died, had not left the World one Lucubration, more on the Subject of *Lunaticks*, and Lucid Intervals ; of so great Use in this present Age.

We say People are sometimes frightened out of their Senses ; I have also heard some Learned Physicians attert, that Persons may be frightened into their Senses : I believe a little of That, together with Sir *Charles Cox's* sober Regimen ; might reduce Mr. *Edmonds* to a Competency of Mind, for an Hour or Two, and enable him to Answer some Common, short Questions : Yet how does this Establiish, or prove a Sanity of Mind, and Capacity, to Negotiate the more Rational Acts of Life, I mean, to Govern Estates, make Settlements, Wills, &c. especially as to Times past, and what security is there, that such Dispositions, *ad Habitum*, will not again break out into habitual Lunacy, and the more fatal Acts of Incompetency, *viz.* Self-killing, and the like, &c.

It is well known, that a certain Lady of Quality gave Satisfaction to the Court upon her Inspection



spection, that she not only gave sensible, but very witty Answers to all the Questions proposed her, nay, was an Over-match to one of the most eminent Gentlemen of the long Robe, who was of Council against her, yet what was the Consequence? tho' the Court in a sort of Complaisance absolved her from Confinement, yet she was soon sent to her Confinement again, where I am told she continues *Lunatick* to this Day.

Let this serve, instead of many other Instances of the like Kind.

But to observe a little more of what past upon the Inspection. Mr. *Edmonds*, notwithstanding the Coolness of Temper to which he was then reduced, there was visible in him a Confusion of Thought Contradiction in his Answers, and an almost total Oblivion of many undeniable Facts, which were charged upon him by Multitude of Affidavits ( none of which were confronted by Counter Affidavits ) the Truth of which there was no Room to doubt, nor could the Truth of the Facts be disbelieved ; however, his Lordship was pleased to supersede any further Execution of the Commission, and discharged Sir *Charles Cox* from the further Custody and Care of Mr. *Edmonds's* Person, with a publick Declaration in favour of Sir *Charles Cox* ; that as he was Intrusted with that Commission without his own Seeking he had honourably discharged it, with great Expence and Trouble to himself, and to the Satisfaction of the Court ; and therefore the Court was pleased to order, that he should have his Costs on that Occasion.

I could not omit doing Sir Charles Cox publick Justice in this Matter, to bear down the many Lies and Stories by his, and my Adversaries, so impudently published all the Town over, to blacken his *Character*, and serve an *Election Turn*.

Thus indeed the Court was pleased to discharge the Guardianship, or Custody of the Person; but nevertheless, with such pathetick and powerful Recommendations from his Lordship, as well to Mr. *Edmonds* as to those Relations (upon whom he was prepared to throw himself) with Regard to his future Government; that his Liberty is rather notional than Real, and it is still under the Power of the Court to resume the Custody, as there may be any new Occasion.

Hitherto I have applied my self, only to the Commission with Regard to the justifiable Grounds for Prosecuting and Issuing the same, which his Lordship could not in Justice refuse to grant, in Order to preserve the Family Rights, as well with Retrospect to what Acts had been past, as what may hereafter happen to be Executed by a Person so *Incapacitated*; and altho' his Lordship was pleased upon the Return of some Comprehension and Memory, which appeared in Mr. *Edmonds*, during the short Interval of his Inspection to indulge him the Liberry of his Person and Estate, in Manner as aforesaid: Yet, —

*Factum infectum fieri nequit.*

He has been *Lunatick*, and by Verdict found a *Lunatick*, and *Incapacitated* to have acted, or disposed

posed for a long Time past. And so in it's proper Time, I shall be able to make appear He hath ever since been, and still is.

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The ACTS of *LUNACY*, prov'd on Mr. *Edmonds* by *Affidavits*, and Testimony of Witnesses *Ore tenus* on Oath, before the JURY.

**T**HAT for above Twelve Years past, he hath observed Mr. *Edmonds* under frequent disorderly Behaviour, and acting like a Person distracted, and besides his Senses, using without any Provocation dreadful Oaths, Curses and Imprecations; frequently in the same Hour contradicting himself, and forgetting almost whatever he had done. or said but few Hours before; which Incapacity hath ever since been Encreasing on him to this Time.—That he hath threatned and attempted to kill himself, and done indiscreet Acts; which no Man in his Senses could do: And particularly when he was to go down by the *Hertsford* Stage-Coach ( for which he had given Two Shillings Earnest ) and apprehending he had rose too late, he run about his Chamber stark naked like a mad Man, exclaiming with dreadful Curses, that he had lost Two Shillings, and wished he had something to cut his Throat, altho' he was time enough, and went his intended Journey in the said Stage-Coach. And from the Time of his first Fits above Twelve Years since, in *Lancashire*; he hath seldom had any In-

*Proved by several Witnesses.*



tervals of an undisturbed Mind, capable to do, or comprehend any Business which required Use of Memory, or Understanding.

That he had often attempted to destroy himself at the Deponent's House, where the  
*Proved by several Witnesses.* Cloath being laid for Dinner, he on a sudden fell into a Passion, and took up a Knife from the Table, which he put to his Throat, and had certainly cut it, if this Deponent's Mother had not in a Moment come, and snatch'd the Knife out of his Hand: Another time he had choaked himself with his Neckcloth, if a Servant had not prevented him, by cutting the Neckcloth off his Neck; and when out of such Fits he was incapable of guiding himself in any Affair, but was solely managed by Mrs. *Elizabeth Greenbill*, who having prevailed on him to give her Twelve Hundred Pound; he some time after fell a raving, and crying they would have all he had in the World, from him.

That being at Dinner, the Deponent desired him to take Care of his Sleeve, which had toucht  
*Proved by several Witnesses.* a little Sauce; thereupon he fell into a Rage, with Cursing and Swearing, and cut his Sleeve off; with Imprecations, as if the greatest Misfortune had befallen him, says his Understanding and Memory hath daily impaired, since his Fit of Sicknes in his Journey to *Lancashire*, and hath not for several Years past, been of Capacity to transact any serious Business.

That for Twelve Years last past, *Mr. Edmonds* hath

hath been incapable of managing any Affairs, being discomposed in his Mind, and entirely governed by Mrs. *Elizabeth Greenhill*; that he would sometimes

*Proved by several Witnesses.*

appeared oppressed with melancholly, and apprehensive of any Thing that passed, and would ask who those Persons were, who were about him, altho' they were of his Family, and had been long known to him: And at other times would appear as a Person frenetic and distracted, even when he had been temperate, and under no Disorder of Drink; and would often, without any visible Provocation or Occasion, use many execrable Oaths and Curses, &c. Threatning to stab, or strangle himself as he had done, had he not been prevented by Persons about him; insomuch that his Servants were forced to take away all the Knives from the Table. That he hath taken up a Tankard of Drink (with Intention to drink it off at one Draught) but not being able to compass it; he immediately snatcht up a Knife, threatning to cut his own Throat, and let out the Wind that hindred his drinking; and he had certainly so done, had he not been prevented.

That he would sometimes rise on a sudden from Company, and in a Corner of the Room, put himself upon his Knees in a praying Posture, using odd Words and Expressions, which no body that heard him could understand. And having continued in such Posture, about a Quarter of an Hour, he would instantly return again to his Company, and to his usual horrid Oaths and Imprecations, &c. and that he still lately was, and

still continues under the same Incapacities, Disorders, &c.

That the *Greenbills* have often said he was Fitter for *Bedlam* than any other Place; that he would frequently ask the Deponent (whom he had known above Twenty Years, and was often with him) who he was, that he had seen him attempt to stab himself; that he would often walk about his House, mopeing, and talking to himself, wringing his Hands, &c. That when People brought in their Bills and came for Money, he would be raving Mad, running for a Sword to kill them: And within these Two Years, when this Deponent was waiting on him at his Lodgings, he having several Bonds, and Bills, for great Sums of Money before him; he on a sudden, swept them all off the Table, into the Chimney, where they had been burnt, if this Deponent had not been there; who carried them next Morning to Sir *Cleave More*, who finding them to be of great Value, Sir *Cleave* sent them to Mr. *Edmonds* immediately.

That, for about Eighteen Years past, Mr. *Edmonds* and the Deponent had several dealings on account of his Cash, and that to the Deponents utmost Apprehension and Belief, that Mr. *Edmonds* was not capable of manageing his own Affairs, he often Walking in his Gardens, in a Melancholly and Distracted Posture; *Damning* the Devil, saying he should Live to want Bread, altho' at the same Time, he had many Thousand Pounds, in the Hands of Sir *Stephen Evans*, and other Persons; and that he was often in very Unaccountable and Outragious Humours, threatening



threatning to destroy himself, when he was no Ways disguised in Drink, nor any Provocation given him.

To the above mentioned Instances, many more might have been offer'd in Evidence to the Jury, but they declined to hear any more as Useless, They declaring themselves fully satisfied with what had been Offer'd and accordingly gave their Verdict : That Mr. *Edmonds* was Lunatick and Uncapable to Govern himself. or his Estates, and so had been about Fifteen Years.

But over, and besides this positive Acts of Lunacy, the many other Acts of High Indiscretion; whereof he hath for many Years given so many Instances, will make a *Complicated Lunacy*, I do not pretend to Argue; that every Indiscreet Man, must be a *Lunatick*: But the frequency of such Acts of Indiscretion, and in weighty Concerns; will be an undeniable Demonstration, of a vehement Tendency to *Lunacy*.

To give away to Mrs. *Elizabeth Greenbill*, and her Heirs for ever Twelve Hundred Pound or a Farm of Sixty Pound *per Annum*, and a Lordship, as he has done, to Mrs. *Elizabeth Greenbill*, and not know what it was, nor what it cost him, (as he declared upon his Examination in Court he knew not) and afterwards exclaiming at what he had so done, and crying out they would have all he had in the World from him, and yet to go on to do himself the like daily Mischiefs.

To suffer great Quantities of Timber Trees to be cut down, which were the Walks, shelter and

Beauty of his Seat at *Cumberlow Green*, and the Money to be squandred away by these Persons : Yet when informed of the Fact, and what had been done without his Order, he in a *Lucid Interval*, directed Actions at Law to be brought : But the *Good Parson* prevailed on Mr. *Edmonds* to discharge the Actions, without which, he told Mr. *Edmonds* he could not give him the Sacrament.

To Execute Voluntary conveyences of Estates, to make and unmake Wills, as Mrs. *Greenbill* and Her Accomplices, Clandestinely from time to time desire.

To suffer himself to be Inclosed by the *Greenbills* and all Admission to his Person, and my Wife when there, to be denyed me, or any other Person, save to Sir *Charles Nappier* and their Confidants. Are not these Acts a complicated *Lunacy*.

To these Instances, I may add the Argument of *Hereditary Lunacy*, which Intitles him to the Right of the Character, which the Verdict has Stamp upon him. His Brother *Samuel Edmonds*, Lived and Dyed, and was always known by the Name of the *Raving Mad Edmonds* : His Elder Brother *Simon Edmonds*, was always known to be the *Moping Mad Edmonds*, and for their being *Mad* and *Incapacitated* : The Family Estate was left to Mr. *Joseph Edmonds*. before he was arrived to his *Natural Stature* of *Lunacy*, which at last is grown into the Perfection, of which, the World has had such *Illustrious Proofs*.

But to remove all doubt, touching the past *Lunacy*

nacy of Mr. *Edmonds*, and in Corroboration of the Verdict : I shall only mention this that I have with great difficulty made shift to get some Account of the Déportment of Mr. *Edmonds*, since his Lordship was pleased to take off his Legal Confinement, and Recommend him to the Government of another (tho' like) Nature ; and I am very well assured and able to prove, that he still continues under a like Incapacity ; and hath since that Time. given frequent Instances of a disorderly Mind and Frenetic Behaviour.

I now submit it to the Judgment of the World, if on consideration of what is here Impartially related ; there be any Room left to doubt of Mr. *Edmonds* Lunacy, by any who believe there ever was, or can be, such a Thing as a Lunatick in the World.

To the Legal and Prudential Motives, which I have above set forth, for my stirring in that Commission ; I find my self obliged by way of further Vindication and Apology ; for such a Prosecution against a Father in Law, (which my Adversaries aggravate as an Act Unnatural, against *filial* Duty, &c.) to lay open to the World, the private Misfortunes of my Family, a Thing which I own) nothing but the Necessity of Self-defence, can excuse a Gentleman in ; and which I therefore do with the utmost Reluctancy.

After Marriage with my Wife, (without Bargain or Farthing) it's well known, Mr. *Edmonds* and I were publickly Reconciled, and I had all the visible Demonstrations thereof, that I could desire, save a Portion, which I never expected without



without (and for which I was always ready, and able to make) a suitable Settlement, &c. Our Visits, Entertainments and Conversations, were for many Years frequent, and not only easy, but often with the Heights of Friendship, and my self and Wife, lived with great Comfort together.

But Mrs *Elizabeth Greenhill*, and her Confederates, taking advantage of his growing Infirmities, secured his Person to themselves; got into the sole Management of his Revenues and Estates, and expected to share the Inheritance among themselves, in Exclusion of my Self and only Son.

Yet, this was not the worst Part of my Case. Those unworthy Instruments, not only irritated my Father and Wife against me; but encouraged under her Father's Roof, the Conversations with Sir *Charles Nappier*, and were Instrumental, in carrying on the same all the Town over: The principal Scene of their Intreagues being in Mr. *Edmond's* own House, during which Time, they industriously concealed my Wife from me; that it was not possible for me in many Years together, to discover where she was.

It was no pleasant Ingredient, that to serve her vain Occasions, she stript my House of a great deal of Furniture, of very valuable Consideration, to furnish One for Sir *Charles Nappier*: Which to this Day I have never heard any Thing of; and not content therewith. She hath contracted without my Notice, or any just Occasion of Want, great Debts in many Places of the Town;  
many

many of which I have paid, and many I have been, and now am threatned to be be sued for.

It was by a great Accident that I came to the Information, that my Wife, about Three Years since, lay dangerously ill, at her Lodgings in *Beaufort-Buildings* in the *Strand*; whether I went to visit her, and treated her with great Tenderness and Respect, and attended her almost Day and Night, during her whole Sickness: In which time she expressed great Remorse, for her past Behaviour, and the Injuries she had done me, and seemed earnestly to desire a Reconciliation with me, at which I was much pleased; and as an Evidence of her Sincerity and Repentance, she several times in her Sick-ness, with great Devotion received the Holy Sacrament; so that as a Christian, I could no longer entertain the least Doubt of her sincere Repentance, and future good Deportment to me; but to my Amazement, she was no sooner well recovered of her dangerous Sick-ness, but she *Eloped* again, to her former wicked Conversations from time to time, and for the better carrying the same on, shelter'd herself with her *lewd Company*, under her Father's Roof.

Amongst all their Profuseness, there was no Room left for one Thought or Penny towards the Education of his only Grandson, and Heir; who through the Extravagancy of his Mother, and the Pressure of a very *Unkind*, but very safe MORTGAGEE, (whom Mr. *Edmonds* had often promised to pay off) was destitute sometimes of those necessary Decencies which his Education required

required ; but neither the dutiful Application of my self, nor the Tears and Prayers of a Grand-Child, could move him to any Contribution, till very lately, and for a very short Time

That about the Month of *MARCH* last, hearing that Mr. *Edmonds* was dangerously ill, at *Barkhamsted* ; I, with another Gentleman, and a near Relation of his, went to visit him, but we were denied Entrance : yet whilst in the Town, we were pretty well informed how Matters went : And that Mrs *Elizabeth Greenbill*, and her Comrades, under the Apprehension that Mr. *Edmonds* was dying, had actually removed out of the House, the great Trunk, or Iron Chest, wherein he used to keep his Money, &c. And were preparing to remove all the Rest of the Effects : What they did with the Chest, and what was in it, when the Chest and Keys were so long out of the House, and in their Power, before it was brought Home, may well be *guessed at* ; and his Lordship on his pronouncing his Order on the Inspection, was pleased to declare, that the Matter had not been thoroughly sifted : And that Mrs *Elizabeth Greenbill*'s own Affidavit had some sliding, and shuffling Words ; that she did apprehend, and believe it might never be opened untill Sir *Cleave More* opened it : Now the Chest being removed, 'tis probable ( said his Lordship ) they also might have the Key ; and during that time, might have Access to the Money ; and especially when they were apprehending the *Force*, that was going to be put upon him, as they thought by this Commission. ( Such was the judicious Observation of his Lordship. )

And



And yet, so malicious have been the Charges of my Adversaries, that they accuse me of that very *Plunder*, whereas the Chest was opened ( in the Execution of the Commission, ) before many Witnesses, and no more Money was found, than Two small Bags of Silver, which might contain about One Hundred and Fifty Pound, which have not answered the Charges of the Commission, which his Lordship was pleased publickly at the hearing, to declare, I had a very probable and justifiable Cause to prosecute, and therefore the Estate ought to bear the Expence.

I must not Omit here amongst the generous Usages which of late Years, I have receiv'd from that Family; to mention the frequent Attempts that have been made upon my Life, &c. (in Retaliation of having more than once exposed my Life in Vindication of Mr. Edmonds) within these few Months, in my late Journey to *Lancashire* (where my Wife then was) my Adversaries well knew the Time of my setting out, and the Road I was to take; the Design was formed, and I narrowly escaped: However the Report was Currant, that I was Stab'd upon the Road; and I no sooner reach'd *Lancashire*, but I Intercepted a Letter of Mrs. *Eveling's* directed to my Wife, viz.

Dear

Dear M A D A M,

*I must wish you Joy, you are at this Time a Widow. The Particulars you shall know next Post.*

From Yours, E. E.

*Take no notice nor Grieve much.*

And was it not high Time now for me, after so many Years passive Indulgence, of so many Insults on my Honour, Life and Estate: That for the Preservation of my Family, I should pursue that Legal Method, which was the only *Grand Cure*, for all those Calamities, by Rescuing his Person, from an Evil *Ministry* of Nurses, &c. who had so many Years, not only the Custody, but Government of his Person, *Using* and *Abusing* his Name, and being the very Nurses of all the Scandals, Disorders, and Ruins of the Family.

I hope the World will Pardon this Openness of my Proceeding, and altho' this is not a Judicial Method, which (we know) obliges a Discovery of every Fact without Reserve; yet this my Vindication being in a Nature of a Legal Justification, hath obliged me to this Frankness, and may excuse a Man's exposing a *Womans* Honour, when it is in the absolute Defence of his Own; and laying open the Wounds and Blemishes of a Family in Order, to have them effectually Cured.

F I N I S.